

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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KOTZEBUE SALMON FISHERY REOPENS AFTER RECORD FISHING PERIOD

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 4 hours from the hours of 6 p.m. Sunday, August 5 until 10 p.m. Sunday, August 5.

Fishermen are reminded to check with Great Pacific if the buyer needs to shorten the hours they will buy fish because of limited capacity or airline schedules.

Thursday night's 8 hour fishing period was one of the greatest fishing periods ever in Kotzebue when 54 permit holders caught 32,689 chum salmon. There hasn't been a catch of over 19,000 chum salmon in a single Kotzebue fishing period in nearly 20 years. Thursday night's catch was the largest in a single fishing period since the 1980s, but there were 24 hour fishing periods back then.

Controlled chaos was a description of the salmon unloading dock in Kotzebue Thursday night with the buyer announcing on the radio at approximately 10 p.m. (2 hours before the scheduled closure) for fishermen to pull their nets. Fishing crews were too busy working their nets to even hear the announcement or perhaps some did not want to hear the announcement. The crew at Great Pacific Seafoods did a heroic job with some working over 24 hours keeping the fish iced and getting them shipped out on a Hercules chartered to make several round trips between Kotzebue and Anchorage.

Congratulations to Kotzebue fishermen and to the Great Pacific crew!